

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3261

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 111652: NA

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SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON QADHAAFI

REF: CAIRO 3563

1. AFTER PERIOD OF DISDAINFUL SILENCE EGYPTIAN PRESS APPEARS NOW TO HAVE BEEN UNLEASHED. APRIL 8 AND 9 ARABIC PRESS CARRIED SEVERAL SIGNED EDITORIALS (IN ADDITION TO ONE BY MUSA SABRI REPORTED REFTEL) COMMENTING ON LIBYA'S ANTI-EGYPT CAMPAIGN.

2. GUMHURIYYA' A EDITOR IN CHIEF MUHSIN MUHAMMAD NOTES THAT "ATTACK ON US IS NOT MORE FEROCIOUS THAN EARLIER ATTACK ON NIMAIRI. QADHAAFI LATER APOLOGIZED TO NIMAIRI. WE SHALL THEREFORE WAIT FOR HIM TO DO SAME WITH US. WE SHALL BE TOLERANT." ALI AMIN, AKHBAR'S EDITOR IN CHIEF, IN A HARSHER COLUMN AIMED AT QADHAAFI AS WELL AS EGYPT'S OTHER FOREIGN CRITICS, NOTED THAT HOSH BORTOQ (AN INFAMOUSLY SQUALID SECTION OF CAIRO) HAS EVIDENTLY "EXPORTED ITS STUDENTS TO A NUMBER OF ARAB COUNTRIES". PRES. OF PRESS SYNDICATE ABDEL MONEIM AL-SAWI WRITES IN GUMHURIYYA THAT "STATEMENTS MUST DEAL WITH UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESSING ISSUES" AND SHOULD NOT "OCCUPY PEOPLE WITH TRIVIALITIES". ALI HAMDI AL-GAMAL, AHRAH'S EDITOR IN CHIEF

NOTES THAT WELCOME CHANGES IN EUROPEAN POLICIES IN FAVOR OF ARAB WORLD HAVE NOT BEEN DUE TO "SHALLOW STATEMENTS OR CAMPAIGNS OF DOUBT FINANCED BY A CERTAIN QUARTER".

3. MOHSEN MUHAMMAD IN HIS TONGUE-IN-CHEEK APRIL 9 GUMHURIYYA COLUMN ENTITLED "QADHAAFI'S PERSISTENCE", DESCRIBES "BROTHER COLONEL'S" REMARKABLE LACK OF SUCCESS WITH HIS UNITY SCHEMES. IN SPITE OF FAILURE OF HIS ATTEMPTS "TO RULE" EGYPT, SUDAN, TUNISIA, MALTA AND IRELAND, QADHAAFI "WILL CONTINUE TO PREACH HIS PRINCIPLES" WHETHER THE WORLD LISTENS OR NOT, BECAUSE "THE BROTHER COLONEL IS MOST PERSISTENT".

4. CARTOONISTS HAVE JOINED EDITORS IN RIDICULING QADHAAFI'S PROSE. MOST NOTABLE AMONG THEM PORTRAYS BRAYING DONKEY SAYING "EVERYONE BELIEVES I AM THE ONE WHO WRITES THE RADIO COMMENTS, BUT IS IT TRULY ALL THEIR OWN WORK."
MAESTRONE

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